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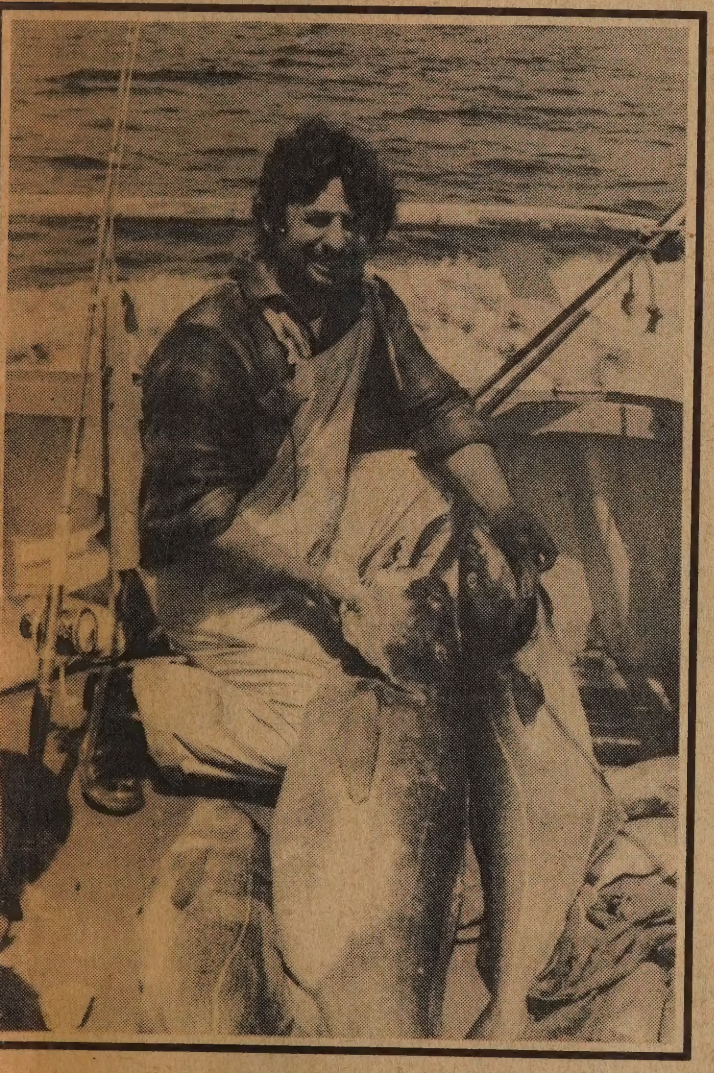
The Long Island FISHERMAN

AUGUST 1st, 1974, ISSUE No. 29



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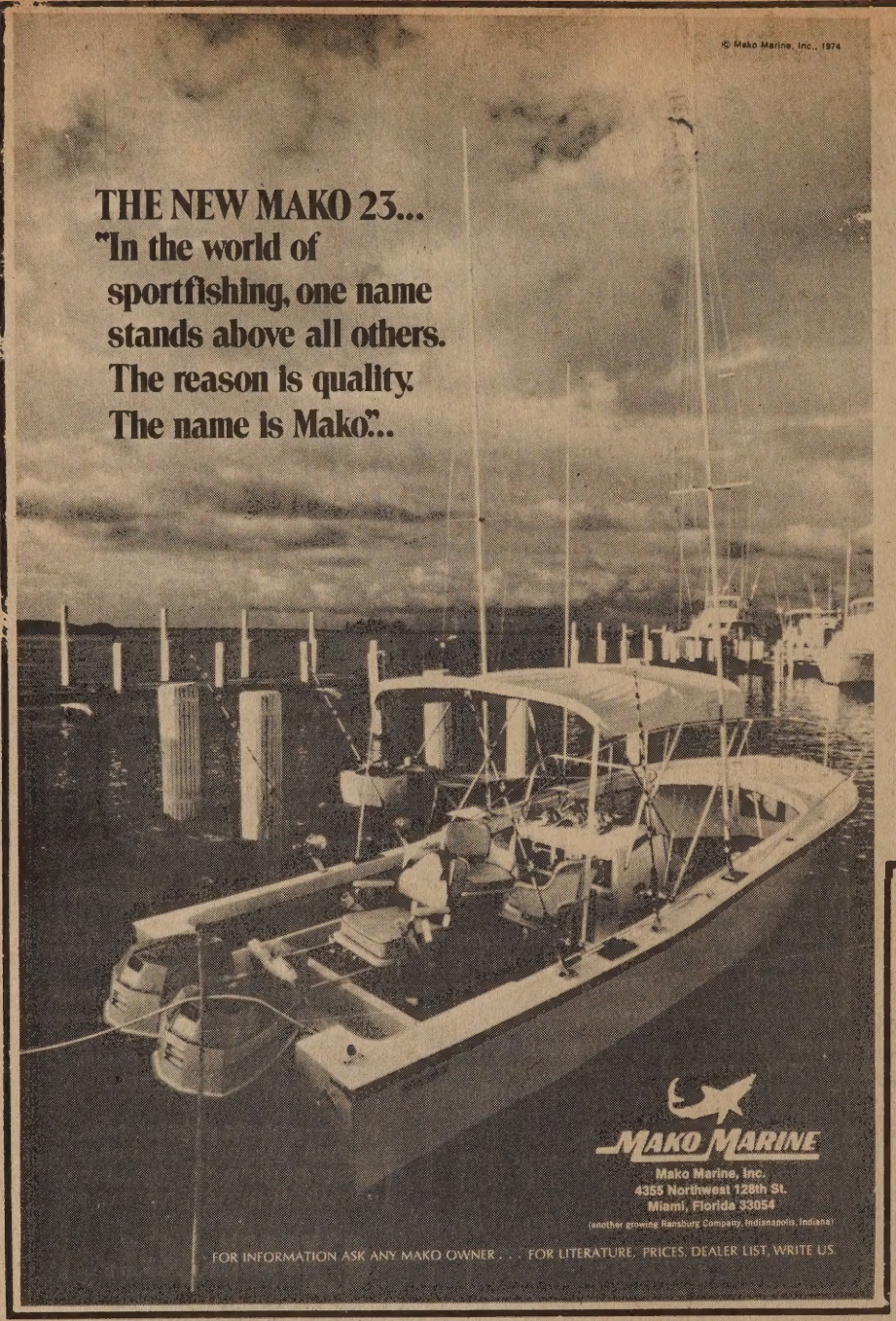
Clam Chumming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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 9, Number 29 August 1st, 1974

CONTENTS

NANTUCKET WRECK ADVENTURE	By Al Ristori	6
CLAM CHUMMING	By Ron Onorato	8
FLUKING GOOD—Part II	By Bernie Schwartz	10
BALLOONING FOR BASS	By Frank W. Reiser	12
SURF FISHING BAITS	By Vlad Evanoff	14
DID YOU KNOW THAT	By Fred Guardineer	16

Chum Lines	4	Solunar Tables	35
Club News	4	Classified Ads	38
News Releases	5	Tide Tables	40

ABOUT THE COVER:
Al Ristori with the most common species encountered on offshore wrecks—cod, white hake and pollock—Read "Nantucket Wreck Adventure" on page 6.

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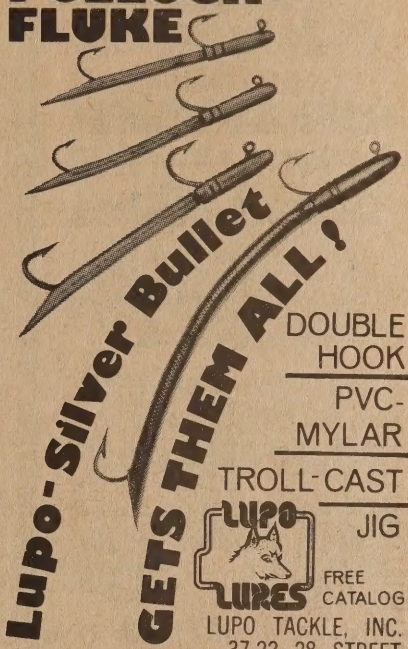

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(Letters must be legible, signed, and have a clearly-written, or typed, return address; we can't help you if we cannot read your letter. Send letters to: CHUM LINES, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729. Fishing news photos should be indicated attention to: FISHING REPORT. No color, only black-white, please!)

LAKE RONKONKOMA MAP

I am a fishing enthusiast who is particularly interested in Lake Ronkonkoma in Suffolk County. Can you spare a map of the lake? Dennis C. Coll, N.Y.C.

Best bet is to contact Larry Kelly, N.Y.S. Dept. of Environmental Conservation, SUNY, Building #40, Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790.

FLUKE NAME

Kindly send me the proper name for what we call fluke or summer flounder. Richard Lopez, Long Island City.

The scientific name for fluke is Paralichthys dentatus. The fish, common in this area, ranges from Maine to South Carolina. Most are found south of Cape Cod, with a few possibly being found as far south as Florida.

LAUNCHING RAMPS

I would like to get an up-to-date boat launching ramp map. Please do not direct me to the Nassau County Fish & Game Assoc. Their map is old and out of date; many of their listings no longer exist.

Perhaps you know of another source of information on boat ramps, state parks, or any locations.

Why is there never anything published about boat ramps? Frank Mastrangelo, Bellaire, N.Y.

To answer your questions: the list of launching ramps from the NCF&GA is the only one we know of. It used to be periodically updated—perhaps that's happening—but I don't want to speak for them.

One solution would be to contact the offices of all the Town Supervisors on Long Island, and ask them about their facilities. The two state ramps we know of are at Jamesport and Hecksher State Park.

Nothing is published about boat ramps because (1) no one has submitted a comprehensive article on them, and (2) reader interest has not been indicated in that area. Any volunteers?

TAXIDERMY SCHOOL

I am interested in learning Taxidermy. Could you please send me the name of a school in the New York area? Marvin Adler, Merrick.

We personally know of no such school in the New York area. Perhaps the readers can help?

CLUB NEWS

(Send club items you wish to have publicized to: CLUB NEWS, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729)

GARDEN SPOT R&G CLUB OFFERS HUNTER SAFETY COURSES

The GSR&GC of Greenpoint Brooklyn, will hold Hunter Safety Courses on the following dates:

1st course: July 30, July 31
2nd course: August 29, 30
3rd course: September 18, 19
4th course: October 16, 17
5th course: November 2, 3

Each course will cover over a period of two consecutive days in two, 2-hour sessions. As always, there is no charge for this course.

The club's location is 143 Driggs Avenue, (corner of Russell St.) Brooklyn N.Y. For further information contact: Glenn Brunhard, President (212) 782-9552.

"SALTY" FLYRODDERS OF NEW YORK, INC.

"PRESS RELEASE"

Barney Lipthay will be in the Fly Tying corner at the next meeting of the "SALTY" Flyrodders of N.Y., to be held in the lower hall of the Grace Lutheran Church at 31-20 21st Avenue, Astoria, New York at 8:00 P.M. The date is August 5.

Two fly fishing films will be part of the program, as well as a slide presentation showing some of the beaches where members of the club have recently taken 4 bass from 20 to 26 lbs.

The club also did very well at the recent Connecticut Salt Water Fly Rodders Get-to-together in Fairfield, Connecticut, with the best fish being a ten pound striper caught by Lou Rossi on a "Loving Bass Fly".

Coffee and cake will be served at the meeting, which is open to the public.

NORTH SHORE ANGLERS

The North Shore Anglers of Port Jefferson are having an informal beach meeting at the Lilco Shorham Jettie on August 8th at 7:30 P.M. There will be fishing, a bull session, and Applications for New Members. All interested fishermen call President Charles Schulz (724-7181) or Treasurer Pete Salzmann (981-0170) for further information.

Club members Dick Brungwell (Sr. & Jr.), Charles Shultz, Ken Darling and Artie Trayer went on the charterboat Triton out of Montauk. Blues were caught on herring baits; they caught 25 fish from 16½ lbs. to Dick Jr.'s 19-pounder. Thanks to Capt. Dick and mate for a wonderful time.

ROCK & ROLL ROD & GUN CLUB

Members of the Rock & Roll Rod & Gun Club Inc., Bronx, N.Y., while fishing on the "Mainstay" out of Captree Park on July 13th, caught 14 blues. The average weight of the fish was 7 pounds, and the largest was 15½ lbs. The biggie was caught by lucky Pat Mc Gomty, and was registered in the Captree Park monthly "Largest Fish Contest".

News Releases

SENATE HEARINGS ON SEWAGE SLUDGE

United States Senator James L. Buckley, ranking minority member of the Senate Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution of the Senate Public Works Committee, will preside over a public hearing of that Subcommittee on the problems resulting from sewage sludge now being dumped into the Atlantic Ocean in the vicinity of Long Island beaches. The hearing, which will be open to the public, will be held in the Marine Dining Room, West Bathhouse, Jones Beach, starting at 9:30 in the morning on Friday, August 2, 1974, and continuing to the late afternoon.

Interested groups and individualy desiring additional information are invited to contact Dan Buckley, Director of Senator Buckley's Long Island Regional Office, 393 Front Street, Hempstead (telephone 516-IV-6-1500).

SPORTFISHERMEN SKUNKED BY INTERIOR DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON—Rep. Edwin B. Forsythe announced on July 4 that a special public hearing will be held in Washington on July 22 to obtain information concerning the continuing dispute between sport and commercial fishermen at North Carolina's Cape Hatteras National Seashore.

Forsythe, from N.J., sponsor of legislation aimed at restricting national seashore areas for sport fishing only, said the hearing will be held by a special committee that has been established by the U.S. Interior Department to find a solution to the problem.

The hearing was rescheduled from last Thursday, June 27, because the Interior Department failed to notify sport fishing interests or Members of Congress interested in the situation that the hearing would be held.

Forsythe, who learned of last week's session only hours before it began, wrote to Assistant Interior Secretary Nathaniel P. Reed and demanded that it be rescheduled.

Forsythe sponsored his legislation because of reports from sport fishermen in his district that commercial netters from outside North Carolina were moving into the beach with their nets, taking the fish, mostly striped bass, and forcing sport fishermen to move.

"It is not my intention to try and take away the livelihood of local residents who have traditionally fished Cape Hatteras for an income," Forsythe said. "But it is wrong for out-of-staters to move into the beach and ruin the fishing for sportsmen."

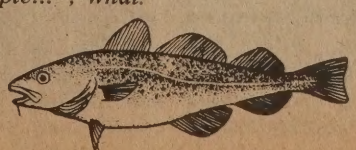
Under interim regulations approved by a special committee headed by Dr. Linton, efforts were made during the past year to reduce the problems between the two fishing factions.

"However, sportsmen from New Jersey still inform me that the same problems exist," Forsythe said. "It is my view that some kind of agreement must be reached that will assure that one of the major east coast recreational areas is utilized for recreational purposes."

Forsythe urged sportsmen interested in the situation to attend the July 22 hearing.

(Editor's note:)

The Fisherman was made aware of the above situation by Fred Schwab of Levittown and the Striped Bass Fund. The release was dated July 4, 1974, but by the time notification reached us, it was too late for us to make our readers aware. Note our italics in the release. Makes you think about "...government of the people, for the people, by the people...", what!



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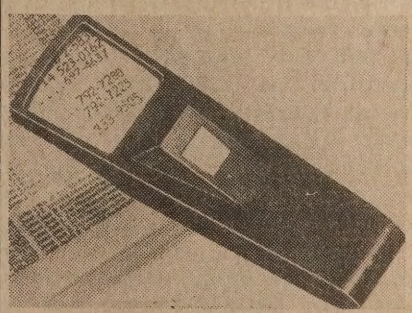

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Nantucket Wreck Adventure

by Al Ristori

Lives there an angler who doesn't yearn to fish virgin waters? I doubt it! Yet, that's a privilege available to very few in this day and age. A long and expensive trip (probably out of the country) is almost invariably required, and even then you're likely to find that the area selected has already been worked hard.

However, despite the formidable odds against it, near-virgin fishing is still available, virtually in our own backyards. Given the miracle of electronics and the skill of a few of the area's top captains, waters far offshore are now being exploited on a very limited basis. Most anglers are already familiar with the opening of the tilefish resource in the canyons to sportfishermen within the past few years. Fewer are aware of the great action available on distant water wrecks fished several times each year by skippers such as Paul Forsberg and Les Behan of Montauk and Fred Ardolino of Sheepshead Bay.

The objective of their offshore jaunts are the many deep water wrecks in the Atlantic far offshore of Nantucket. Most anglers are familiar with the reputation of the "Andrea Doria" and, indeed, this wreck is still fished by some party boats. However, it has been seriously disturbed as a great fish-producer by a mantle of netting deposited over it by our "friends" in the foreign fleets.

Considering the fact that their ships literally bristle with electronic equipment, it's hard to believe that they could make such an error as running an expensive net over a wreck. Yet, it has happened, and, at last report, only the bow of the "Andrea Doria" is still fishable. Even there, many fish are lost on the way up as gear becomes entangled with netting.

As a result of the difficulties involved with the "Andrea Doria", Paul Forsberg has been making his special Nantucket wreck trips to the "Republic", a wreck dating from the turn of the century, and it has never failed to provide a great trip. The "Viking Star" log contains coordinates for several other wrecks in the area, but there's been no need to bother with them as yet since the "Republic" has produced so spectacularly. According to Paul, this large ship (which went down as the result of a collision) was a combination sail and steam vessel featuring a sidewheel.

Ordinarily, the "Viking Star's" special wreck trips are scheduled to leave at 9:00 PM on Sunday night, returning 24 hours later. The trip to the wreck (about 120 miles) takes from eight to nine hours, depending on weather conditions and various other factors. Additionally, it takes awhile to get anchored properly, but about five hours' fishing is assured. Actually, that's more than is generally required!

This year's May trip was scheduled early in the month, but left on a Monday night instead of Sunday due to Mother's Day. That change happened to be a fortuitous one, as we were hit with a southeast storm on Sunday, followed by a strong clearing breeze from the northwest on Monday. However, by our 9:00 PM departure time, the wind had dropped off and the sea was rapidly subsiding.

The trip offshore was a pleasant one, especially since this time I had arranged in advance for a bunk. On the previous year's May wreck trip, I used the reclining chairs—which weren't bad at all, but certainly not up to a bunk in comfort.

The author with one of the giant white hake that are so common on the "Republic".

A small cod comes aboard in the bow.

For those who can't take the confinement of the below-decks bunks, a sleeping bag rolled out on the upper deck aft of the pilot house is ideal, providing the weather is good.

All the heavy clothing was soon forgotten as we woke up Tuesday morning to sunshine, mild weather and no wind. The sea was down to a moderate swell and conditions for wreck fishing were just about perfect. As soon as Paul got over the wreck, he spotted a mountain of pollock above it. Sure enough, almost every line, whether armed with diamond jig or rigged with bait, was assaulted on the way down. Literally everyone aboard was hooked up and screaming for the gaff as the mates fell far behind in their gaffing duties.

A few more pollock were taken, particularly by jiggers, but the big bite was over. For some reason the school moved off the wreck and few were taken after the first half-hour. Sometimes they'll do that, but last year they remained all day and dominated the fishing. Skimmer clam baits lowered to the

bottom were eagerly snapped up by cod and large bergalls. The bergalls were real heavyweights, ranging up to 3 and 4 pounds. Most anglers aren't aware that these large bait-stealers are excellent eating and well worth the filleting.

The only problem with the cod was the abundance of small fish. Fortunately, the tide was light and the smaller specimens could be quickly cranked aboard. Big cod came aboard with great frequency and the action was continuous as long as the boat was on the wreck. Occasionally a change in current would move it off, but a quick re-anchoring job would have the boat back over fish.

Big white hake became more common as the morning wore on. Thirty-and forty-pounders were common, and I even hooked one on a jig. The white hake looks like a huge ling (red hake) with a purplish tint. It has an enormous, tooth-lined mouth and a belly to match. They don't fight as well as cod and are often discarded as their meat is softer and harder to preserve. However, I filleted my white hake from this trip; everyone receiving fillets was delighted with them.

Everyone had been pulling fish so fast that when noon rolled around it seemed as if we'd been fishing forever. The boat would be running slower on the trip back because every fisherman had hundreds of pounds of fish. The various pools were weighed up right away. A cod of about 50 pounds took most of the money, though there were several bigger white hake which competed for the "anything goes" pool. Actually, not quite anything goes in that pool—a huge angler or goose-fish weighing about 70 pounds wasn't eligible. Another oddity to come aboard was a cusk of about eight pounds. This is a cold water species only occasionally encountered south of Cape Cod.

The biggest pollock was in the 25-30 pound range; only an average fish by last year's standards. However, that's part of the fascination of this near-virgin wreck fishing. Every trip is different with one species or another predominating. The only sure thing is that the wreck will be loaded with fish of some sort!

The mates filleted fish steadily until Block Island was in sight. Plenty of ice was provided and, as a result, no fish were wasted. The feature of the return trip was a fine meal (part of the fare) provided by that genial couple, Jim and Betty Mulhern. Betty, by the way, is a licensed skipper and certainly the prettiest around!

You may well encounter fishing as good even on more heavily fished grounds, such as Coxes Ledge, but you can't beat the consistency of those almost-virgin distant water wrecks. Give it a try and see what I mean. Future wreck trips on the "Viking Star" are scheduled to leave on June 23, September 8, October 6 and October 20—all returning about 24 hours later. The fare is $45.00 ($20.00 deposit required) which includes ice and the returning meal. Jim Mulhern has plenty of food, beer, soda and coffee at his snack bar so you'll need only your fishing equipment (you can rent that from Jim also) and sleeping bag, if desired. Spaces are limited and reservations a must. Call Paul at 516-668-5924 and get set up for the trip of a lifetime!

Big cod are weighed up for a pool worth hundreds of dollars.

This huge angler was the biggest fish aboard—probably over 70 pounds!

Clam Chumming

by Ron Onorato

We had been fishing for over 30 minutes and things were looking pretty bleak. "Perhaps when the current picks up we will do a little better," quipped the leader of this expedition, Norm Landsberg. The tide was just starting to ebb when we had begun fishing, now it had developed a full head of steam.

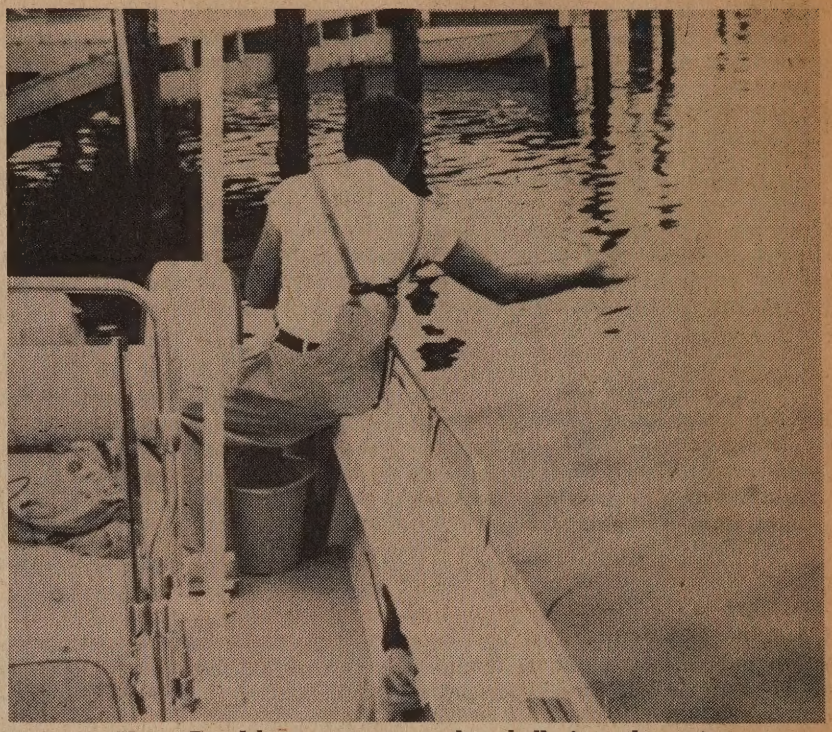
The cars that zoomed over the second Wantagh bridge during the early morning rush hour did little to soothe the headache of Norm, who was getting it from all angles. I was just about to add my two cents when something nudged the end of my line; a few seconds later another tap was felt, then the line pulled taut. I let the fish run for a few feet and then put the reel in gear.

The striper at the end of the line felt the hook and zoomed off. With the aid of the strong current and my light, 10 pound test tackle, the fish made a pretty good run, and although I knew it was no monster, it put up a good scrap on the fine line. In a few minutes, the ten pound striper was lying placidly along the side of the boat; it was quickly gaffed and brought aboard.

While I was busily engaged in fighting my fish, my partner kept up a steady flow of clam bellies into the rapidly moving current. Norm had just deposited a belly in the water when he felt another pickup. While he was busy fighting his fish, I resumed the chumming activities until his fish was gaffed. A quick glance at the other boats tied up to the bridge indicated that they, too, were into fish.

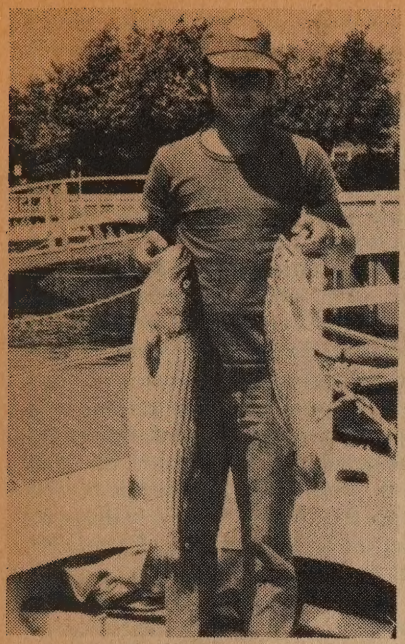
Action continued at a fair pace throughout the entire ebb tide; nothing really spectacular, but good enough to keep our attention. By the time the tide had reached slack water, we counted 11 stripers, up to 16 pounds, in the boat. An added bonus were the two, five-pound weakfish that hit the clam baited hooks around the end of the tide. Since we were out of tide and clam bellies, we called it a day and headed back to the dock.

Clam chumming, which was very controversial just a few years ago, has become an accepted way to fool finicky bass; pro and novice alike have tried clam chumming in an effort to catch stripers.



Norm Landsberg squeezes a clam belly into the water.

Norm shows properly clam-baited hook.



Author with nice bass and weakfish taken from the same slick.

But, as many a fisherman has found out, there is more to clam chumming than depositing a bunch of bellies in the water. Tackle and techniques require a certain amount of specialization in order to be productive.

Most of the stripers that fall prey to a well-presented clam belly are of the "school fish" variety; that is, fish that weigh from four to 15 pounds. Every now and again a lunker loses its mind and winds up in the boat, but this is the exception rather than the rule.

The bait that is used for chumming consists almost exclusively of clam bellies. The belly is the soft stomach section of the skimmer clam that is removed when making clam chowder. The clam company desires only the tough part of the skimmer, not the soft stomach. The name of the person who first discovered the fact that schoolies have a passion for a glob of clams remains to be known, but that is not too important.

Some fishermen take the trouble of grinding up the whole skimmer (tongue and rim included) and claim certain amounts of success, but the clam belly is usually the better of the two.

The tackle used is often the key to success or failure. While certain boats are clobbering the fish, others are just wetting clams.

To start with, avoid the use of spinning gear unless that is the only tackle available. The use of a spinning reel does not allow you to properly work the baited hook.

Conventional tackle is by far the easiest and most effective gear to use when chumming. I find that a light action boat rod of 6 foot length to be sufficient. Used in combination with a matching reel filled with no more than 12 pound monofilament, this outfit is hard to beat in the way of line control and hook manipulation.

I like to use light monofilament for several reasons. The lighter the line, the less conspicuous it is to the striper, which is very discriminating when hitting a clam-baited hook. Since the fish, for the most part, are on the small side, the lighter line enables me to really enjoy the fight of a fish. The lighter line also flows more easily than heavy line in the current.

Hooks used should be kept on the small side. I use Eagle Claw hooks with the "baitsaver" shanks in sizes 1/0 or 2/0. The points of the hook must be sharpened, even if the hooks are new. You'd be surprised at how dull some of the new hooks are, and in clam chumming, sharp hooks make a big difference.

The hook is tied directly to the line without the aid of snaps or swivels.

The actual clam chumming is not difficult and, with a little practice, you quickly get the knack of it. First, anchor the boat in area that has a moderate to fast tide flow. If there is little tide, the clams will sink to the bottom and will serve no purpose. Once set up in a good current, take a clam belly in your hand and squeeze it, letting the liquid drip into the water: all sorts of juices will flow forth. This is exactly what the bass want. After you have squeezed the belly good, drop it over the side of the boat.

When you first begin chumming, drop over a couple of clams at a time. This establishes the chum slick. After a few minutes, cut back on the chumming: every few seconds, deposit a belly over the side of the boat. Keep the belly dunking at an even, steady pace throughout the duration of the fishing.

(Continued on page 15.)

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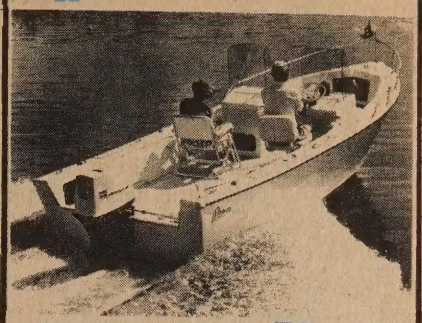

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Fluking Good~

Part II

by Bernard Schwartz

One day while drifting across the edge of a rip I noticed a small open boat anchored on top of a bar. The incoming tide was really ripping over the top of it. If you have fished before you've noticed that where the bar ends and the channel or deeper water begins there is a rip. It's created by the fast water over the shallow bar as it goes into the deeper water on the other side. Anyway, it's a visible thing if the water isn't too rough.

When I saw this fellow fishing the rip I thought he might be working on bass or blues. As I drifted closer I noticed him pick up a fluke of about two pounds. He was quite intent upon what he was doing and didn't notice my boat drifting over the bar towards him. It startled him as I came into his view. In the few minutes it took to get there on the drift he picked three more fish, all decent size. Quietly watching him gave me the word on his type of fluke fishing. And it was a good word.

He had anchored up on top of the bar. When he cast his line sideways the fast current would take his bait over the top and into the deeper water. There, the open mouths of the fluke would just inhale the bait as it came over. He was using a small sinker so that the bait would be able to drop over the bar, and it was just heavy enough to keep the bait close to the bottom.

He was bailing fish, and seemed quite chagrined to be caught by me, but he made the best of it when I grinned and told him he would have to beat me there tomorrow. As I remember, he said, "Come on in now. The water's fine. The wind and tide might not be so good tomorrow."

I anchored the boat about thirty feet away from him and, following his direction, drifted my bait back with the current. Wham! The first fish I hooked was about four pounds. This didn't make for points with my new friend because most of his fish were in the two pound class. He was one fellow I didn't outfish, though. A real oldtimer, with no wasted motion about him.

A week or two later, with fishing kind of slow, I tried a new trick at that same spot: chumming fluke. Plenty of shiners were left over and they were going soft from the heat. Even with plenty of ice, shiners don't hold up well. Crushing them in the tub, I made a fish soup and dribbled it straight over the side. The rush of water on the shallow bar spread it quite thin and swept it along the bottom a long way.

Before long (about five minutes) I began to catch fluke again. I don't know if they were there all along and not feeding, or if they followed up the slick, but I had a real fine day. In fact it was so fine I ran out of bait, stupidly having mashed up almost all the shiners for the chum.

I ended up stripping fluke for bait. Not that fluke belly isn't good bait, but I hated to waste the time. I have used this trick many times since and, even in the most desperate times, have managed to catch some fish, though sometimes not the species I had been fishing for; strange things, such as sea bass, porgies, striped bass, mackerel, sea robins, sand sharks, snappers, weakfish, skates and blues. Quite often I would come in with a good mixed catch fishing that way.

At the entrance of Rockaway Inlet is a long, stone pile called Breezy Point Jetty. On incoming tide, the current coming out of the east rips around the point and moves on down to the narrows of New York Harbor, and into Jamaica Bay as well. Big fluke lay along the edge of this rip where the fast moving water meets the edge of the calmer Bay water. Every afternoon during the summer months a southerly breeze springs up in this area and this wind is just cross-current to the rushing water.

When the tide was right and the wind fairly strong, I used to run my boat into the rip just at the end of the jetty and the current would swing it rapidly along with it. The wind pushing cross-current to the rip would push me out of it... usually with two nice fluke on.

Once, while fishing with a friend by the name of Joe Costalles, I hooked two fluke at the same time. The wind wasn't as strong as I would have liked and the fish kept us in the rip a long time. I knew I had a good fish, and we were both concerned with the fact the net and gaff were on the hood of Joe's car back at the boat station.

When two fluke came to the surface, both of them really large, we really had reason to be concerned. Considering the rod I was using was the equivalent of a 12 lb. class spinning rod, with no net or gaff and in the worst kind of slop from the current and wind, it didn't seem likely we would land either fish. The final solution was to tilt the boat so some of the water slopped over with one of the fluke, and to lift the other one at the same time by the leader, which luckily was heavier than the line.

Joe hugged the first one to his chest while I slipped the second into the fish box. Both were eight-pounders.

I used to love to fish that jetty. In season I caught blacks, sea flounders, pollock, weakfish, striped bass, porgies, bluefish and even albacore (false tunny) and bonito. The only problem to fishing it was the danger involved: The rips are very strong and wave action is hard, high and confusing. Many a boat has been turned over there, and even quite a few lives lost.

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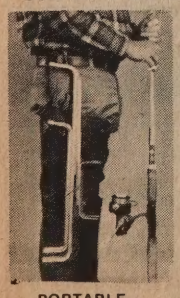

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It is impossible to tell people to watch the weather when they fish an area like that. It takes a good scare on the part of some for them to learn of the dangers involved. What we did that day to get the two fluke in was definitely wrong. Even though we were both experienced boatmen, it could have ended in easy disaster.

Towards the end of August each year the fluke tend to leave the bays and inlets and head out towards the forty fathom line where they winter. Actually, beginning the second week in August, I start looking for a northwesterly wind to blow on an outgoing tide. There's a bar that runs the length of the Breezy Point Jetty called the West Bar. It begins about ½ to ¾ mile west of the start of the rock pile and runs the full length of the jetty, which is about a mile long. When the fluke leave the bay, and you can catch the right drift, it's possible to pull fish all along the bar. And they are nice fat fluke, too, all averaging over two-three pounds.

Usually for about a week there is a run of very big fish in the six-to twelve-pound class. They move out of the bays along the south side of the Rockaways, and it's good picking with big baits and bigger hooks than usual.

Many times about that time of year the tinker mackerel come to our shores, and they make the best kind of bait for the large fluke. Fished live, with a one-ounce drift sinker or small trolling lead and a rather large fluke hook, could produce some rather startling views of doormats coming up at the end of your line.

Not too long ago my son, Mark, and a friend of his coerced me into leaving my business. In a rented boat we headed for the jetty. If I remember correctly, it was the last week in August. There was an outgoing tide and a northwesterly wind of about 10 to 15 miles per hour. Tinker mackerel were schooled up all over the place and the boys and I drifted along and jigged mackerel until we had about thirty of them. We kept them alive in a tub. (They don't stay alive long, so we quit trying to catch more than we would need.)

I was using a light spinning outfit, and the boys, light conventional rigs. The outgoing tide and the wind both in the same direction made for reasonable seas and a good drift. Hooking a live mackerel on the above-mentioned rigs produced a pickup almost immediately. I had to spend about ten minutes bringing in the first of eight doormats of six to twelve pounds.

(Continued on page 29.)

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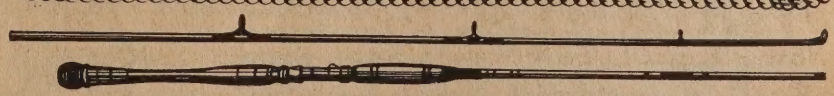

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Ballooning for Bass

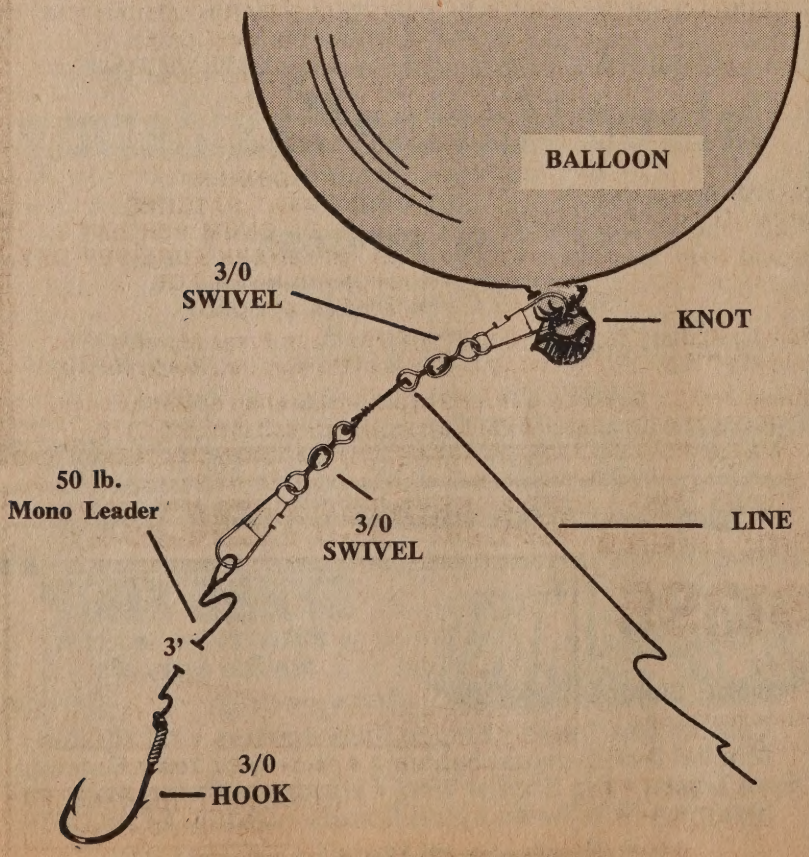
by Frank W. Reiser

One of the deadliest techniques known for producing bass is fishing bait in the surf. Assuredly there is more fun, and even status, to tease a fish into hitting an imitation of his prey, but on many occasions bait fishing will make the use of lures look like a futile exercise in casting. To paraphrase the Baron of Bass himself, Frank Woolner, "The bait fisherman is a true craftsman and will generally out-fish the hidebound purist. He worships at the shrine of a deadly art."

In one area, though, artificial lures have the upper hand over a baited rig: they are usually designed to cast like bullets. With a long stick and a little practice, most lures can be hurled a country mile. Attempting for that kind of range with bait usually puts the sinker pretty far out, with the bait frequently flying off somewhere else, like to a waiting sea gull down the beach. Even with an apparently successful cast I worry that I am fishing with the bait torn or hanging in an unnatural manner. Castability, then, gives the lure an important upper hand, because you cannot catch fish unless you place the tempter in the area where the fish are feeding.

The natural presentation of the bait is of particular importance when dealing with fish that rely heavily on eyesight, such as bass. It really doesn't matter how you present your bait to a fish that detects food primarily by smell, such as an eel. Otherwise, for long distance casting you could glue your clam to a hook with epoxy, or use piano wire to lash a mossbunker to a long-shanked hook.

I observed one possible solution to this problem by watching some of the heavy hitters while fishing Florida's Sebastian Inlet last year. To get from the jetty to the deep water of the inlet, where the snook and redfish make their feeding migration into the Indian River, by casting would put too much force on the bait, a live pin fish hooked through the back. To surmount this obstacle of distance, these anglers would run their line through a metal ring to which they would attach an inflated balloon about two feet in diameter. The wind would then, providing it was blowing in the right direction, gently transport the live baitfish to the snook's banquet table.



Strange as it may seem, I did not try the technique in Florida, where it was most popular, but back in Long Island several months later. I was fishing an early outgoing tide in Long Island Sound near Bayville last September. The sun had just set, and of the four fishermen working the low surf, no one had so far beached a fish. Three of us were fishing bait, but the fellow to my left was working hard at flinging what appeared to be a large tin squid at the end of a 12-foot stick. After a half hour had passed, with no one having had any action, I noticed the fellow to my left was leaning back against an arched pole. A few minutes later he was beating the water to a froth with his hand gaff, and soon beached a bass of about 12 pounds.

Trembling with excitement, I quickly ran to my tackle box, popped it open, and pulled out a Hopkins to which was attached the usual mess of tangled hooks and leaders. There, lying at the bottom of the tackle box in the dim glow of my flashlight, was a yellowed cellophane package of balloons that I had purchased while in the Sunshine State. A quick check of the wind proved it to be blowing offshore, a good ballooning direction. Now was the time to try this radical technique! a balloon to carry my seductive clam belly half way to Connecticut, where the fellow on my left seemed to be flinging his tin squid.

I cut off the fish-finder rig that I was using and dug through the dried seaweed in the bottom of my tackle box until I found two 3/0 swivel clips. I ran the line through the eye of one and tied it to the eye of the second swivel clip with a double cinch knot. To the second swivel clip I attached a 3/0 gold-plated hook with two cuts in the shank on a 3 foot, 50 lb. test monofilament leader.

After draping on the hook what I decided was a lucky clam, I blew up one of the balloons to a diameter of about two feet, knotted the end and clipped it to the free-sliding swivel clip. Wading out waist-deep, I tossed the rig and allowed it to be carried away by the steady offshore breeze. It bobbed away from shore, quickly at first, and then more slowly as the drag of the line in the water held it back.

Even though the balloon was a bright red I lost sight of it in the murkey black and grey of night. Jidging from the amount of line on my reel, it must have been out 100 yards. I kept the tip of my rod high so that the incoming rolling waves wouldn't pull on the line too hard, and waited.

It was about 20 minutes since the evening's solitary fish was beached when something slammed my pole, and the 10 lb. test line sizzled off my Crack reel. After a long pumping match I had reclaimed what seemed to be a mile of line. Using the next small wave for thrust, while running backwards, I planed my bass ashore. A 15 pound bass, exhausted, lay at my feet in the moonlight, while my heart pounded and my hand trembled with excitement—as they do after every fish I catch.

The fish were out there, and this was not the time to revel in victory, so I found another 3/0 hook in my tackle box; I wouldn't try to reclaim a hook from the gaping mouth of a flapping fish in the dark. I pulled out another balloon; the first balloon apparently had burst during the battle. Another clam soon set sail, and in a short time an 11 pound bass lay parallel to the first.

I fished until about 12:00 P.M. with no further action on the beach. Three of the other anglers had left fishless and I had begun to pack up my gear when the "Tin Man" from the left walked over to look at my fish.

"What are you using, bait?" he asked.

"Yeah," I replied. "Clams"

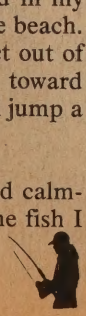
"They use them a lot on the South Shore, don't they?" he further questioned.

While he was talking I reeled in my line, dragging the balloon up the beach. Seeing this dark, bobbing object out of the corner of his eye, coming toward him in the moonlight, made him jump a bit and exclaim:

"What the hell is that!"

"Oh, it's just a balloon" I said calmly. "Just having a party for some fish I know".

I was left alone to finish packing up.



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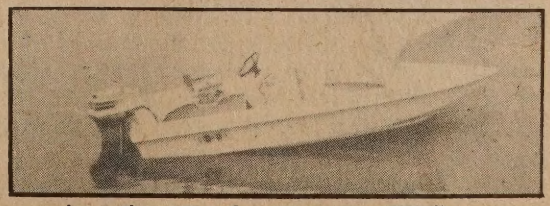

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Surf Fishing Baits

by Vlad Evanoff

There was a time when surf fishing experts or squidders who used only artificial lures from the beach looked down on the bait fishermen and referred to them as "ling-jerkers," "bait-dunkers" or some other disparaging term. That was before rigged eels, live eels, live bunkers and live mackerel were found to be so effective. Of course, many of these surf anglers still don't like to use dead baits on the bottom, preferring to use artificial lures most of the time.

But there are times when natural baits will outfish the artificials, and the wise surf angler learns how to use them on such occasions; for instance, early in the year when stripers first show up in the surf. At that time they are sluggish or there may be no baitfish in the breakers, and then they tend to look for their food on the bottom. At such times bloodworms and sandworms will catch more fish than lures. Hook a big sandworm through the mouth and out below the head, or impale two or three bloodworms on a hook and cast them out beyond the breakers. If there are any stripers around, you are almost certain to get action.

But seaworms are also good for many other surf fish besides bass. They can be used for kingfish, blackfish, porgies, flounders and weakfish.

Another good bait for surf fishing in our area are the big surf or skimmer clams, which dig into the sand and lie partly exposed. At times you can gather them by wading in shallow water and looking for signs of them, or feeling for them with your bare feet. Other times they are washed out by a heavy blow or storm and can be seen lying high and dry on the sand at low tide. But most surf anglers don't depend on this, and usually buy their clams from tackle shops or bait dealers.

Skimmer clams make good bait when using the entire insides on a big hook for striped bass on a surf bottom rig. Smaller pieces of clam can be used for blackfish, porgies and sea flounders.

Another shellfish which is easily obtained is mussels. They are found clinging to the bottom rocks or lower rocks of jetties and breakwaters, and at low tide you can quickly gather enough of the bigger ones to use as bait for such fish as blackfish, porgies and flounders.

When the hot summer months rolled around, and I wanted to do surf fishing for striped bass, I turned to crabs, especially the soft-shell or shedder crabs. The easiest crab to obtain for this is the big blue claw found in most bays and inland waters. However, they are expensive to buy in the soft or shedder stages. But, if you wade the flats around sea-lettuce, eel-grass or docks and piers and other parts of a bay, you can often use a long-handled net and scoop up a few.

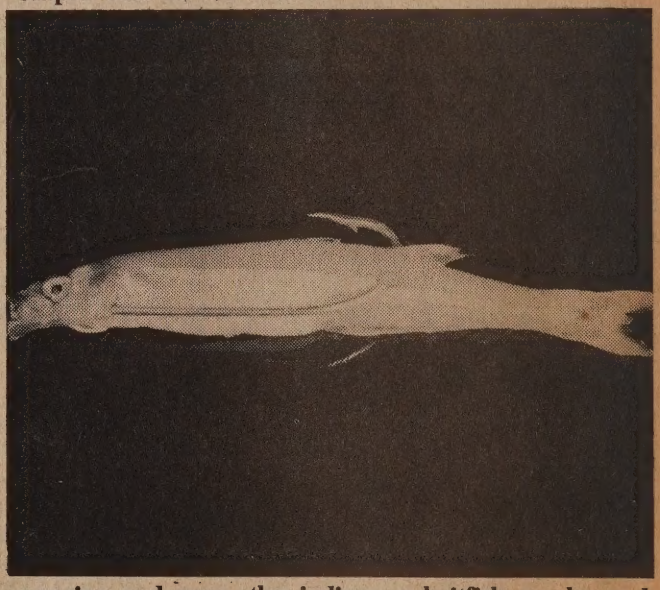
The soft-shell can be used as-is, but the shedder crab still has its hard shell, which has to be removed before using. Both stages are hard to keep on the hook. You can tie them on with thread or use thin rubber bands to keep the soft meat on during casting and in the moving water.

As stated earlier, striped bass will really go for these baits in the surf. Use a whole crab for big stripers and smaller ones, or half a large one, for small stripers. You can also use small pieces of crab for bluefish, weakfish, kingfish, blackfish and porgies.

An even better crab to use for striped bass during the summer months is the calico or lady crab. This crab is found buried or crawling on the sand along beaches in shallow water. Although you can catch a few by hand or with a long-handled net, a better way is to make a wire box or trap and attach it behind a rake. As you pull the rake through the sand, you force the crabs into the wire box. Of course, you have to twist the handle of the rake after every scoop so the crabs fall into the box. Here again, the best crabs are the soft-shell or shedder stages. But if you get very small, hard-shell calicos you can string up to five or six on a hook and use them.

Surf anglers who fish for blackfish from jetties or breakwaters often use green crabs or fiddler crabs for bait. Fid-

The big skimmer makes a good bait when surf fishing for striped bass on the bottom.



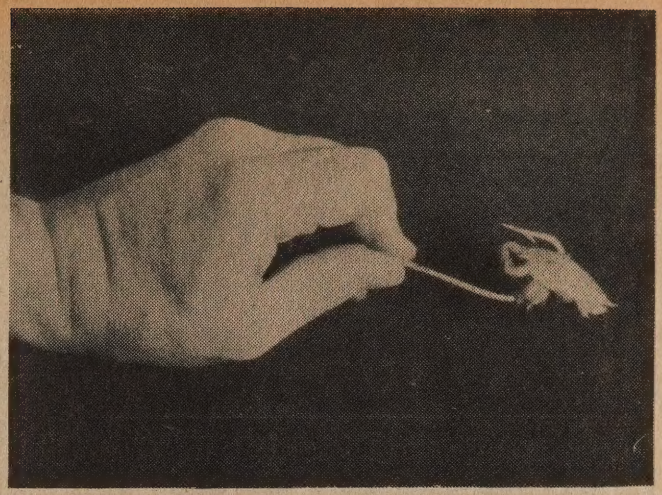
spearing, and many other indigenous baitfish, can be used for stripers, blues, weaks and fluke.

dlers are scarce these days and you usually have to buy them. But green crabs can often be gathered in numbers between jetty rocks at low tide or in tidal pools along rocky shores.

Another good surf bait which lives in the sand along the surf line is the sand flea, more correctly called the sand bug, mole crab or beach bug. They aren't too big, being egg-shaped and tan in color, and usually you need several strung on a hook when fishing for striped bass. They can be obtained by digging in the wet sand with your hands as a wave recedes. A quicker way is to use a wire mesh trap or box scoop with a long handle and place it in the water as the wave recedes. You can use a single small sand bug on the hook for kingfish or for blackfish.

Squid can also be used in surf fishing to catch striped bass, bluefish and weakfish. For stripers you can use either a whole, small squid, or the head part with the tentacles. You can cut the squid into strips and use these for weakfish and bluefish. And, of course, if fluke come into the surf or are running alongside jetties or breakwaters, you can use a long strip of squid for them in combination with a live killie or a dead baitfish, such as a spearing or sardine.

Fish of various kinds can also be used in the surf. One of the best of these is the mullet, which can be used whole if small, or cut up into chunks and fillets if large. The same can be done with menhaden (bunker). Both these baits can be used for striped bass, bluefish and weakfish. The smaller baitfish such as spearing, sand eels, shiners or herring, and killies can also be tried. If they are very small in size, try putting two or three on a hook. You can also take almost any fish, such as mackerel, butterfish, porgy, fluke, kingfish or bonito, and cut it up into chunks and strips and use it for bait.



One sand bug can be used on a small hook for kingfish or blackfish. Several on a larger hook are required for bass.

Finally, we have the live baits such as eels, bunker, mackerel or herring, which, if obtainable and can be kept alive in a container or tank, make excellent baits—especially for striped bass and bluefish. These are difficult to cast and use from a flat beach, but if you can get out on a jetty or breakwater, or fish from a rocky coast such as Rhode Island (with deep water nearby), you can cast these live baits out and let them swim around to attract the fish. They can be used on a free line or with a float or cork a few feet above the hook.

Clam Chumming

(Continued from page 9.)

If a belly is too big, then rip it in half with your hand.

Working the bait in the clam slick is very important. Take a small clam belly and place it through the barb of the hook once or twice: do not use a piece of bait that is too large. Lower the baited hook into the water and begin to strip line from the spool. The actual chumming technique is similar to that of bluefishing. The idea is to keep the baited hook moving naturally with the tide and other bellies in the slick. If the bait isn't natural, the striper will show no interest in your offering.

After stripping off the initial amount of line, judge the flow of the current, and allow the baited hook to flow at the same speed the other bellies. Keep stripping line off the spool. If you do not get a hit in the first hundred feet, reel in the line and begin another drift. This time let the baited hook drift back 150 feet. Always keep the baited hook moving naturally with the tide and chum.

A bass will hit a baited hook in many different ways. Sometimes it will nudge the hook a couple of times and then hit it, or perhaps leave it alone; at other times, the bass will hit the baited hook like a bluefish. As soon as you feel a definite pickup, let the fish run for a couple of seconds before engaging the reel. Keep a fairly loose drag and you should have no trouble bringing the fish into the boat.

There are many areas on the south shore that are frequently chummed: the Atlantic Beach Bridge and the bridges of the Jones' Causeways are perhaps the most frequently chummed areas. The state boat channel behind Jones Beach is another favorite spot for clam slingers, as is the Tin Can Grounds outside of Rockaway. Out east, chumming the rips off Montauk has become a way of life for the local hungries. Even such spots as Eaton's Neck, in Long Island Sound, have become the focal point for clam chummers.

One thing to remember when clam chumming is not to get greedy. Large catches of small to medium-sized fish often result from a chumming expedition, and these fish usually wind up in the local fish market. If you are really interested in the preservation of the striped bass stock, it is just as easy to release any excess or small fish rather than take them to the market.

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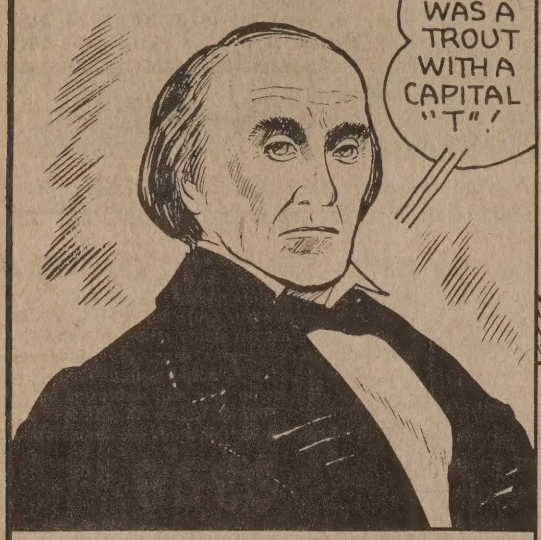

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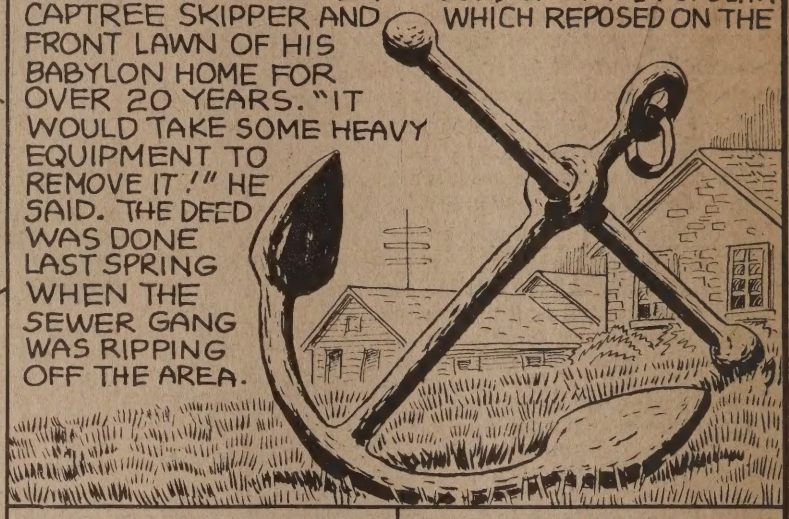

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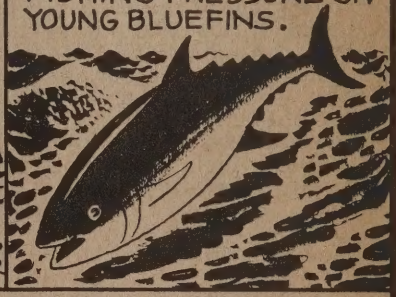

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SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

(Fishing photos must be sharp, clear, and black-white. We cannot use color prints due to printing problems, so please do not send them. Address photos to: FISHING REPORT, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729.)

MONTAUK

Capt. George Glas of the **Hel-Cat** reports plenty of bluefish being caught at The Race. These are all big blues going to 14 lbs. which are caught dunking whole herring into a school of fish which shows up on the depth finder. Bonus catches of stripers will continue to increase.

Henry Colombi at the **Star Island Yacht Club** reports fair to good around fishing. A few tuna were taken at the Butterfish Hole. These ran up to 25 lbs. Bluefish were plentiful as the **Lillian Q** had 65 blues to 8 pounds on Sunday morning and then went to 170 feet of water where they caught four tuna of about 15 pounds. The blues were trolled along the sand beaches on the South side. The private boats seem to be doing well on fluke at the rips and pick up an occasional black. The shark action seems to have fallen off, but the **Way Out** caught a blue shark of well over 100 pounds which was tagged and released. Striped bass action is slow and mostly night fishing.

Capt. Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk** said the shark activity has quieted down somewhat. This past week he did hang a giant tuna and a few sharks.

Capt. Elizabeth Mulhern of the **Viking Star Fleet** said the boat has been fishing Coxes Ledge. The fish there are big and hungry with good catches by everyone. Big cod of up to 40 pounds and better take the pool regularly while pollack of up to 37 pounds run them a close second.

Capt. Fred Bird said that both the **Little Bear** and the **Flying Cloud** are both doing well on porgies at Cartwright and Gardiners Island. Sea bass and blacks are also being caught in good numbers.

Tuma's Tackle reports excellent blue fishing throughout the Montauk area. Stripers are being trolled in the rips by the Lighthouse during the day but not in quantities like the blues. Both the open charter and private boats are all doing well on fluke and porgies in the rips off the Point. Jetty fishing for flounder is still productive. Snapper can be had from the Town Dock.

Ronnie at **Gone Fishing Marina** said the fluke fishing is the best in 15 years. The biggest they have had was 12 lbs. with many from 7-10 lbs. Ronnie says even the tourist can come in with 20 to 30 fluke. The best spots are inner and outer Shagwong and the North Rips. Bluefishing is fair to good while the bass fishing from boats is so-so. The snappers are small.

The Cloud Nine on Saturday brought in a 225 lb. Mako which was caught about 25 miles out at 160 degrees.

Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop** says the fishing is July fishing—quiet but it can be unexpectedly exciting. There are a couple of bass, a few blues and a stray weakfish. Don't be afraid to get your feet wet as you can always run into a minor blitz. Thursday morning saw one like this but it didn't last until the afternoon.

The **Viking Skipper** reported great porgy fishing, especially on Sunday. Capt. Bud Dorman is fishing Gardiners Island. John Murchison of Highland Falls, N.J. was high hook on Sunday with 127 porgies. Some sea bass, blacks and flounder were taken too. It was a steady pick all day and all hands took bags of fish home.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand at the **Promised Land Fishing Station** said porgy fishing is very good all over. They are from ½ to 2 lbs. Weakfish are spotty but run a good 3 lb. average. Small bluefish of 1-2 pounds are racing around off Goff Point. Fluke are on the upswing at Cartwright Island and at can 3.

HAMPTON BAYS

The fluking is somewhat more than excellent according to reports out of **Frank's Fishing Station.** This weekend Mark Almos and Mitchel Cohen of

Betsy Wright owner of the boat "WAYOUT" is presented with a special award for having caught the greatest number of mako sharks, in the "Third Annual Shark Tournament," sponsored by the Montauk Marine Basin. Capt. Carl Darenberg Jr. of the Montauk Marine Basin presents the trophy.

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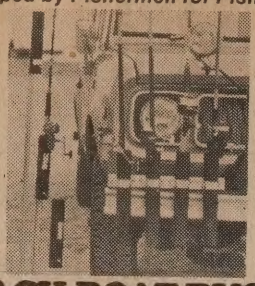

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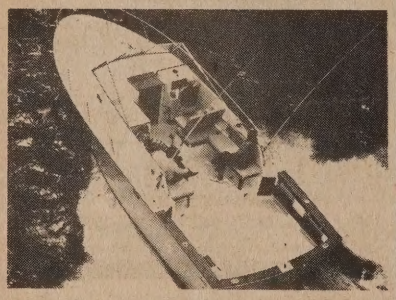

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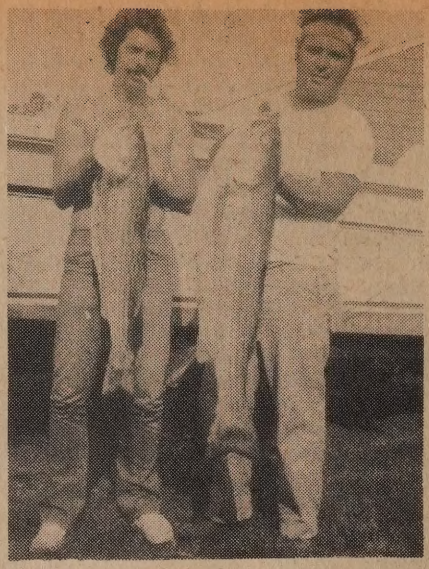

Roy Trauber, left, holds 15 lb. bass and Lou Rosado of Herman's Sporting Goods, right, holds 30 lb. bass they took trolling a 5 oz. gray and red Tri-Fin Eel at Montauk at night.

Brooklyn fished the inlet with killie and squid combos. They returned to the dock with 98 keepers, average size a remarkable 2½ to 5 lbs. Many other rental skiffs also returned with 50 or more keepers.

Tony's Fishing Station has large fluke right in front of the station by buoy 21, but for quantity Tony said the inlet is the hotspot. Flounder are still being taken right in front of the station.

Ernie of **Bradley's Fishing Station** reports fluke catches of 8 to 15 fish per boat coming out of the East Channel. Weakfish are coming back strong in the Peconics at buoys 32 and 35 by the National Golf Links.

SAG HARBOR

Barbara Jacobsen at **Noyac Marina** said fishing has improved greatly. There are plenty of porgies all over but the school weaks have moved in. Lures or bait will take these fish. Bill Fales along on Mike Alberts boat had 65 weaks using Salty Dog lurs tipped with squid. Danny Miles, Eddie Mieth, Pat Lesue and Ernie Petrone of the Jim Flynn Sportsman Club had 78 good sized fluke along with a fluke and a few snappers. Both of these parties caught the fish on different days drifting between the Monastery and Long Beach on the morning tide. When the tide stops running so do the fish.

SHINNECOCK

Hank Altenkirch at **Altenkirch's Tackle Shop** said the Marlin, sword and tuna fishing is very good. Hanks friend caught two white marlin in 90 feet of water Southwest of the inlet. He also had a swordfish on for an hour. Bluefish trollers are working with surge tubes in 40 feet of water outside of the inlet and are scoring heavily. Red Glasser caught 51 fluke on Sunday in Shinnecock Bay. They were from legal to 6 lbs. A good morning tide using squid and shiner combo worked for him.

Capt. Bellows Jr. on the **Capt. Clark** had over 190 weakfish of 1½ to 2½ pounds on Saturday. He also had over 275 porgies with 21 fares. The **Capt. Clark II** had 230 weaks and over 375 porgies for 26 fares on Saturday. Excellent weak and porgy fishing all week long. Kingfish are showing pretty good now and are from ¾ to 1 pound.

MORICHES BAY

Guy Cole at **Moriches Bait & Tacke** reports Tuna to 20 lbs. south of the inlet in 90 to 125 feet of water. Closer in are the bluefish and bonita. Frank Spadaccin, Dan Dymond and Ken Wirth used white shrimp tails early Sunday morning to catch 9 blues, 1 fluke and 21 weaks. These were caught in the vicinity of the Smith Point Bridge. Fluke are being caught in the channel at buoys 23 & 24 on live killy and squid combo. Crabs are in Forge River.

Fluking is good between buoys 36 and 42 and in the Old Cut, reports Mary of **Skidmore's Fishing Station.** Drifting killie and squid combos is producing about 10 fish per boat, average size 2-lbs. No monsters have come in yet. Snappers are in Harts Cove and off the docks. They're small, but getting bigger every day. Stripers are being plugged at night off the Coast Guard Radio Station. Still a few flounder being taken at buoys 39 and 42. For the larger boats, bluefish are being trolled on umbrella rigs just outside the inlet. Blue claw crabs are far up the creek at hart's Cove.

Dick's Tackle Box reports general good fishing and crabbing. Crabbing at night with lights or days with traps or killy ring are both productive. Fluke are taking squid and spearing in both the Old and New Cuts on moving tides. Flounders are around but are small and you have to hunt. Blues being trolled outside the Inlet in 40 to 60 feet of water wtih tubes. Early morning and evening are best. Striped bass of 10 to 25 lbs. are being

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Mignon Gaston, Ali and Buddy Turoff took fluke to 5 lbs. on killies and squid at buoy 39 in Moriches Bay. Photo courtesy of Silly Lilly Fishing Station.

taken in the Old Cut or Elbow using live bunker or eels at evening or night.

Al at **Hi-Way Fishing Station** reports fair fluking. Buoys 35 and 39 and south of 36 are the best bets. Drifting in the deeper water and over the bars produce best. Spearing and squid baits to use. Fluke are also pretty good at the newly dredged channel by buoy 37. Flounders are south of the station near buoy 32 and 33. Small striped bass have been trolled south of the Coast Guard Station on umbrella rigs in the early morning.

MASTIC BEACH

Ron at **Keenan's Fishing Station** reports that crabs have just started and are coming in heavy right around the bridge. Fluke, bluefish and weakfish are being taken at buoy 25. Average catch is 16 or 17 fluke per boat and a lot of small blues taken on the bottom while fluke fishing.

WEST SAYVILLE

Dudley Young of **Young's Fishing Station** said that some excellent catches of porgies are being taken south of Bayport. Using clam chum, boats are averaging 30-35 2½ pound fish. Fluke are good in the Heckscher area, with an average per boat of 10 two-pound fish. Weakfish are also being taken on squid bait south of Bayport.

Reports out of the **Oakdale Fishing Station** are weakfish and kingfish are being taken on squid off buoy 5 at Heckscher Park. Fluke are pretty scarce.

Dennis Masterson at **South Bay Fishing Station** reports Al Morgan with his buddy "Doc" caught 36 weaks straight out from the station about 2½ miles. They drifted just a piece of squid right on the bottom. Snappers are all over with the 5 to 7 inch fish close in and snapper blues to 2 lbs. southwest of buoy 30. Fat fluke were picked up drifting squid on the bottom for weaks at buoys 28 and 29.

CAPTREE

Capt. Joseph Fleet reports all boats doing well on fluke and blues. Fluke fishing has held up well and most fares have good catches with few throwbacks. Bluefishing is just outside of the inlet not more than an hour from the dock. On Saturday night **The Capt. Joseph IV** captained by Charles Kennedy had bluefish going all night. They wound up with over 1000 blues.

Capt. Ben Litwin said there is great fishing to be had either days or nights. Daytime fluke fishing has been good with some catches as high as 15 fish and going to over 6 pounds. At night not over an hours run from the dock produces bluefish action that can tire you out. Loads of 4 to 8 pound blues are caught along with many 12 and 14 pound pool winners.

George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** said the bluefishing has been fantastic all week with the exception of one day. The bluefish are all locally caught from Jones to Fire Island Inlet. An occasional run further offshore is sometimes necessary but the big ones are also caught close in.

BABYLON

Jean Principe of **Augie's Bait & Tackle** said that lots of big blues 8-9 pounds are being trolled and chummed outside the inlet in 70 feet of water. Football size tuna are coming into the chum slicks in the same area and even a few white marlin. A 175 lb. mako shark was taken in 130 feet of water over the weekend. Fluke of 5-6 pounds are on the outside of the inlet in 45 feet of water. Smaller fluke are being taken inside by the Coast Guard Station in the West Channel. Small snappers (getting larger!) and blue claw crabs are providing a lot of action at the Babylon Town Dock.

Walter Schmidt of the **Babylon Fishing Station** said that small weakfish are being taken on artificials on the east side of the Captree Bridge. Fluke are being taken in Snakehill Channel and anywhere between the inlet and the lighthouse.

Windsor Marina reports that Nick Maranzano on Wednesday evening caught a 10¼ lb. fluke in Fire Island Inlet. He caught this fish from his own boat drifting squid.

LINDENHURST

Capt. Bill Hoffman of the **Sea Horse** said the fluke fishing is holding up well. Some of the lesser fished channels and back bays are now coming to life with a new crop of fluke. Many small sea bass—pin bass

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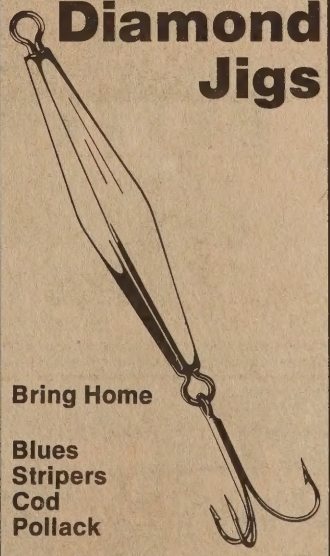

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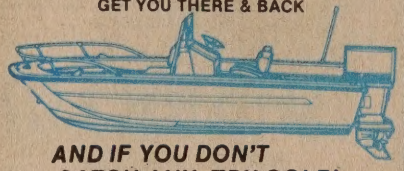


AND IF YOU DON'T CATCH ANY, TRY GOLF!

was what Capt. Hoffman called them—were caught which is a good indicator of terrific fall sea bass fishing.

Duke's Tackle Shop reports loads of tuna, bonita and shark from 10 to 22 miles southeast of Fire Island Inlet. Heavy reports of White Marlin sightings with some hook-ups but no confirmed catches. Fluke fishing best in the Fire Island Inlet and the East-West Channel on outgoing water using large spearing. Weakfish have shown an upsurge at Copiague Hall. Lurewise a small Hopkins or a Salty Dog do well but live lining a snapper with a float does wonders. Snappers are all over and will take small spearing readily. They are about 6 to 7 inches long. Striped bass action is slow with little to report.

AMITYVILLE

George Comb's Bait & Tackle reports good snapper fishing all over. Ocean Avenue and Bayview Avenue docks are some of the better spots. These docks also have crabs. Weakfish are being taken in the East-West Channel on the last hour of the flood tide to avoid the eel grass. Hopkins 2B jigged seems to do better than the plastic shrimp. Bay fluke fishing is down but fish are being taken at the Four Corners and in the State Channel on killies and squid combo. Striped bass surf fishing is slow but live eels at night have taken bass from 20 to 35 pounds. This is primarily night fishing at Tobay and Gilgo with a few taken during the day.

SEAFORD

Del's Fishing Station reports that every boat that went out came back with 3 or 4 fluke of 1 to 3½ pounds. The East-West Channel and the second bridge held these fluke. Del Sr. went out with Wayne Chin on Sunday night and had a 4½ pound bass at the second bridge.

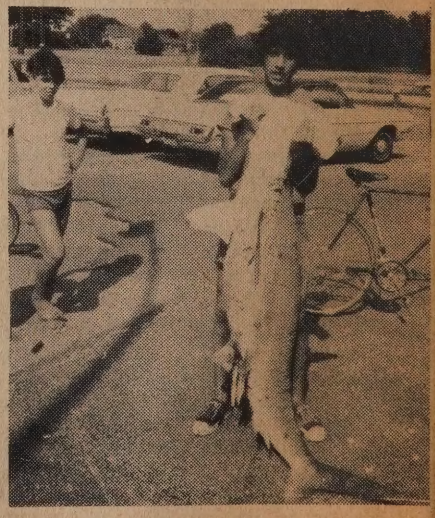
Lon Wanser's Tackle Shop reports excellent snapper fishing all over. Bluefish and schoo! tuna are being trolled offshore. Weaks are coming on strong at the third bridge, Amity Cut and the measured mile. A jigged Hopkins 75B is best. Unqua Point produced 48 weaks. Fish early morning or late afternoon. Striped bass fishing is quiet. Fluke fishing is a steady pick at Goose Creek using any combo of squid, spearing or killy.

WANTAGH

Frank at **Causeway Bait & Tackle** said there are lots of snappers. They are small with some of decent size. The West End has produced striped bass for worm drifters in the evening. They range in size from schoolies to a few 20 pounders. Good fluke fishing on the edges of the channels, stay out of the center. At the top of the high tide you can fish the flats. Killy and sand eels for ordinary size fish with bigger fish taking smelts.

MERRICK

Whaleneck Marina reports fluke being taken in the Jones Inlet on both tides. Killies and squid fished off the Coast Guard Station were best. Weakfish being taken on jigs in the State Channel east of the Wantagh Bridge. Some of these fish went to 3½ pounds.



Joe Calandra, Levittown, took this 160 pound hammerhead shark on a friend's boat, the Joan. Photo courtesy of Causeway Bait & Tackle, Wantagh.

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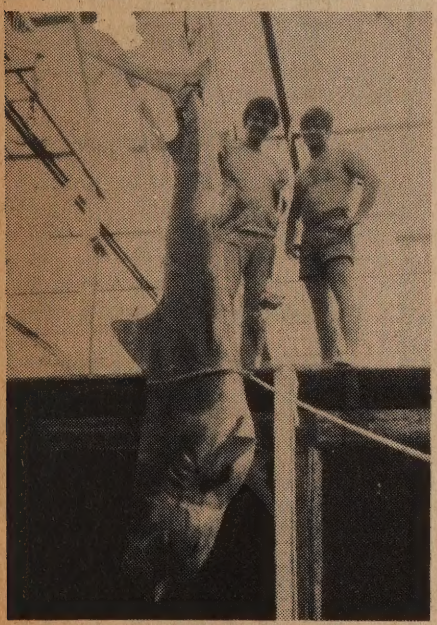
(Fishing photos must be sharp, clear, and black-white. We cannot use color prints due to printing problems, so please do not send them. Address photos to: FISHING REPORT, The Long Island Fisherman, P.O. Box 143, Deer Park, N.Y. 11729.)

FREEPORT

Aloma II's skipper Capt. Paul "Spider" Schmitt started marking fish heavy on the Elac recorder at about 8:15 p.m. Saturday night. He cut the engines, chum flew out and in minutes, rods bowed and big fish were gaffed and hefted over the side all night. Your reporter was in the thick of the action, bailing 19 big choppers in the peasoup fog. All the fish were 8-10 pounders. This action was south of the Pipeline and was fast and furious all night.

Al Lindroth of the **Capt. Al** got 600 fish for 30 fares on Saturday night, southwest of the Jones Beach Tower in 70 feet of water, fish 3-6 lbs. with an occasional 8 pounder. Lots of bait (anchovies) in the water. Al says this should be a great August for blues, barring any major storms.



Tom Crawford and mate Bob Foley with the 571½ lb. tiger shark Tom took aboard Capt. Ronnie Lepper's "Kim" at the HA buoy on 7-23-74. The monster ran the 50-lb. test down to the knot on his first run and had to be chased at 20 knots to gain line. Tom used a gimbel belt and shoulder harness, never sitting down throughout the battle. The tiger shark bent the gin pole and left several teeth in the hull of the Kim.

The Starstream II bailed them Saturday night and the remainder of the weekend too, fishing the pipeline area. New schools of bigger fish have apparently moved in. Last week 12 year old Mark Hutter of New Hyde Park, a first timeer, had 4 blues, to 8½ lbs., coming in second on the pool.

Capt. Bill of the **Gladys B II** fished blues on Sunday south of the pipeline, for a good, steady pick all day getting 25 blues for an 8 man charter, fish 6-12 lbs.

Capt. Jim Zook of **Capt. Jim V** called to report bass chumming very good at the local bridges, up to 19 lbs., for the astute angler. Also, very good fluking and floundering at Swift Creek.

Nick of the **Freeport Boatmen's Ass'n** called to say after a picky week, things opened up Saturday night, with his open boat **Capt. Hall** and charter boats working south-southwest of the pipeline off Jones Beach. His fluke charters are having very good catches from Short Beach to the inlet.

The **Jack VI** is enjoying good fluking during the week. On a bluefish charter on Saturday night, Capt. Cliff had an excellent night south of the pipeline, with happy yells and shouts resounding though the fog.

Tony at **Anthony's Fishing Station** reports very good fluking to 4½ lbs. at first Meadowbrook Bridge, Swift Creek, Loop Bridge, and bay areas. Also great flounder catches on clam chum and clam baits at Swift Creek. Plenty of tiny snappers.

The **Hudson Point Marina** reported that Jim DeMaria of Howard Beach caught a 315 lb. Mako at the Cholera Banks on Sunday. Jim was chumming for blues and he had a 9/0 rig ready which he let out with a whole mackerel. It took an hour and a half to bring in this fish. Bruno Giancontieri and friends caught 40 weaks and one bass at the Meadowbrook Bridge chumming with clam bellies and using sandworms for bait. They worked the incoming tide at night.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed's Fishing Station reports 25/40 fluke per skiff. Ask Ed for the location of the present hot spots. Snappers "all over the place." Try the flats and the inlets at the buoys for fluke. A 300 lb. mako was taken on mackerel in 125 feet of water 150° off the inlet by Tony Carmosina of Massapequa. Anglers Howie Frankel and the Cazziana brothers also had 2 large makos in the same area.

The **Brand X** reports blues picked up again Saturday night and catches have been very good.

ISLAND PARK

The **Ginnie-Mae** is doing good fluking off Reis Park, mainly, says Capt. Bill Henriques.

Beckman's Tackle in Lynbrook reports a lot of fluke at Reynolds

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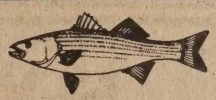

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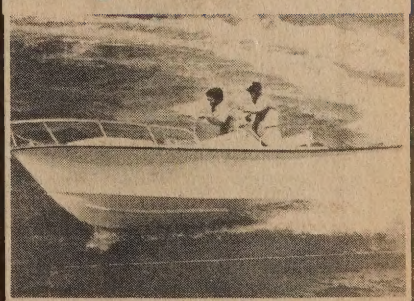

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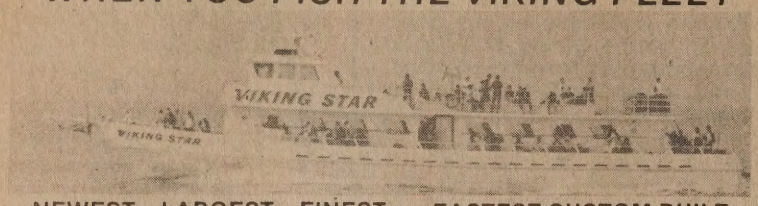

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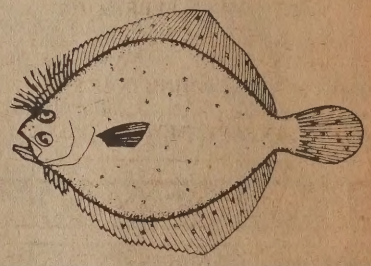

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Channel, the Inlets and at Reis Park, though it seems more smaller fish are being caught now. Bass fishing is show. Weaks for surf fishermen fishing the bottom with squid and sandworms.

LONG BEACH

Jim at **Long Beach Sports Marina** says fluke are fewer in number, but a little larger. Herb Sweetback and Percy Williams of Long Beach had 45 nice keepers to 4½ lbs. on the flats behind Long Beach Sports Marina, Friday, on killies. They anchored and used a bunker chum filled chum pot. One and two-pound snappers and weaks are around.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Leon Miller at **Henning's Fishing Station** reports fluke in abundance up and down the channel. A 7 lb. 2 oz. fluke taken by George Bell at the mouth of the inlet, a "young doormat" says Len. Fish squid, killies or spearing any time but dead low. Best is both sides of the top. Small blues and weaks in the Pocket and off the beaches. Watch the birds for where and when. Small jigs with feather or small swimming plugs, Rebels, Red-Fins. Bass chummed at the bridge. Lunkers / slow. Sharks at the HA Buoy.

JAMAICA BAY

John at **Cross Bay Rod & Gun** reports snappers in the bay. Sand porgies at South Channel Bridge, and lots of blue claw crabs off the bridges and the marshes in traps. Some fluke at Floyd Bennet and drifting the beaches.

Bill at **Channel Rod & Gun** in Ozone Park has been out fluking off Reis Park. Sunday Bill had 10 keepers and 10 throw backs on spearing, squid and killies. Porgies in the bay and crabbing very good at the North and South Channel Bridges.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Amberjack iv** reports blue-fishing was fair-good the past week, up and down.

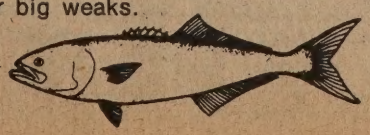
Pilot II's Capt. Tom reports good fluking off Reis Park / Jersey, with fair-good catches of blues at night.

Tone B reports good fluking on the black side of Beach Channel.

Neil at **Stella Maris** tells us that there are plenty of fluke all around; Coney Island, Reis Park, Ambrose Lightship, Sandy Hook, Buoy 18 off Coney Island. Blues, stripers and weaks of good size can be fished here (very deep). Blues here run to 18 lbs. Try 5 hooks baited with mackerel and a sashweight.

STATEN ISLAND

Lennie at **Santos** reports from Verrazano Bridge to Midland Beach, there are blues at night off the beaches and storm sewers in the 9-10 lb. class. They're hitting light; bunker chunks best, then butters. From Ft. Wadsworth to South Beach there are weaks to 7½ pounds. Local boats are trolling Bingle tubes on the bottom and during the day are drifting bait. Blues at Great Kills Park, Cedar Grove. Porgies and snappers in Great Kills Harbor. Blue claw crabs along the bulkhead. Anadale / Princess Bay area for blues and weaks. Blues 4-6 lbs., weaks 3-4 lbs. on bait. Boats—buoy 4 doing very good drifting worms are getting 3½-5 lb. weakfish. The islands to Verrazano Bridge for weaks off the bottom and also small stripers on outgoing water. Latest hot spot — buoy 4, Chappel Hill, drifting worms for big weaks.



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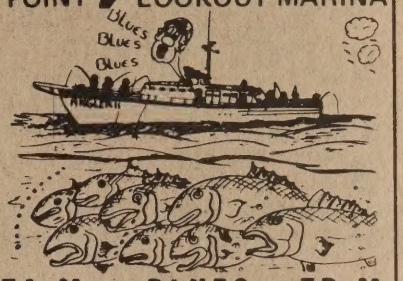

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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

ORIENT POINT

Peter at the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** said the porgies are in thick at South Ferry and Buoys 16 and 18. The porgy fishing is so good that some people have reserved their boat a week ahead of time. Weakfish are at the Brickyard and Buoy 16, taking a hi-lo rig with squid and sandworm. Bluefish are being jigged at the Plum Gut but rigged bunker or mackerel do best. Stripers are also caught on this setup in the early morning or evening.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt. Marty's Fishing Station reports pretty good weakfishing south of Nassau Point Buoy using worms and squid, with worms doing best. Porgies are pretty good west of Robins Island on worms and clams. Snappers of 8 to 10 inches are showing up everywhere. Kingfish are being taken south of Buoy 23 on worms.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Queensland Cove Tackle reports a few weakfish being taken on floating worms or jigs at Rocky Point. A 9 and a 4 lb. blue were taken from a boat while throwing Kastmasters into a bunker school. Otherwise bluefishing is quiet. Bunker are showing up all over. Porgies and a few kingfish are being taken on worms at Sound Beach and Rocky Point. Snappers are in Mount Sinai Harbor.

PORT JEFFERSON

Capt. John Fischer of the **Betty W** reports the bluefish have not settled in solid as yet. Daytime bluefishing is up and down while the nights are very much better. They tried fluke fishing by drifting clam strips on the bottom between Cranes Neck and Old Field Point. No great catches were made but the fish are there.

Bobby at **Plaza Sports** said they had a few keeper fluke drifting sandworms at Mount Sinai Inlet on the incoming tide. Snapper fishing is good inside Port Jefferson Harbor. Weaks are being taken on worms in the holes on the east side of the harbor near the buoys. Bluefishing is quiet. Bass of 30 to 40 lbs. are being taken near the rocks on live and cut bunker east of Shoreham and Wading River.

SMITHTOWN BAY

Tim at **Smithtown Sports Shop** reports fair bluefish action on Thursday and Friday while the weekend was nearly a blank. On

Friday, Lionel Migliorini caught ten bluefish from 10 to 12 lbs. using red surge tubes on wire line in Smithtown Bay. On Sunday, some minor erratic topwater bluefish action occurred at the Nissequogue River Buoy.

NORTHPORT

Capt. Pete Novellino, of the trailered charter boat **Jennie Three** fished southeast of Fire Island Inlet Sunday, in 80 feet of water and had a good catch of blues 8-10 lbs. and one 25 lb. tuna.

Larkfield Sport Center reports the bluefish of up to 10 and 14 pounds are being scattered by the sharks in the Sound and Smithtown Bay. Water skiers have reported sighting fins and one angler brought in a 130 pound brown shark caught off Crab Meadow Beach. Loads of porgies are on the flats at Sand City.

HUNTINGTON

Capt. Don of the **Ever-Ready Fleet** called via the marine operator to report the bluefishing in Huntington Bay has been great the past week and weekend, running 7-17 pounds. The Ever-Ready sailing schedule will soon consist of three 4 hour blue trips. Watch ad.

George Valentine at **Four Winds Tackle** reports bluefish are taking live or chunk bunker at Huntington Harbor and Inlet as well as in front of Lloyd Harbor and inside, Target Rock and Marshall Field also have blues. These blues go from 4 to 12 pounds. George fished Target Rock with umbrella rigs until dark and live eels after that for a total of 5 striped bass from 22 to 27 pounds. Clam chummers at Eaton's Neck scoring consistently good on 3 to 10 pound striper with a few going to 20 pounds.

COLD SPRING HARBOR

Veteran's Fishing Station reports bluefish at the outer harbor in the deep water. Porgies are out in the Sound on the sand bottoms. Weakfish are being trolled along the shoreline well away from the rocks.

GLEN COVE

Glen Cove Sports reports steady bass action on the outgoing tides either morning or at night. Rebel plugs and live bunker when available are both equally good. Bluefish and snappers are being taken both from and offshore of the Glen Cove beaches.

PORT WASHINGTON

Roger Ballon at **Moreland's Bait & Tackle** fished with worms at several rocky points and caught 16 striped bass from 3½ to 5 pounds. Lou Rizzo live lined a bunker at Hart's Island and came in with a 46 pound bass. Porgies are rather plentiful over most sandy bottoms.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait & Tackle reports very good catches of bluefish between the Whitestone and Throgg Neck bridges. Locating the fish on a depth finder and jigging with a large Hopkins has taken blues from 9 pounds and up. Boats fishing bunker or mackerel chunks are also scoring well. Striped bass of from 7 to 18 pounds are being taken at Hart's Island by worm trollers at night or early morning. The last three hours of the incoming tide and the first three of the outgoing are best.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

NEW ROCHELLE

Bluefish are at Glen Island and they run to 15 lbs. Lures of all kinds are producing. Bass are still around. A pair of 46 pounders and several 30's were trolled up outside the Fort Slocum area.

MAMARONECK

Porgies and blues are just outside the harbor. Bass are being taken on bunker throughout the area.

WHITE PLAINS

The K Buoy is producing blues of 9 plus pounds in mid-Sound. Scotch Caps is producing both bass and blues on bunker and plugs.

BYRAM

Bass and blues, as well as bottom species, are plentiful. This week's weigh-ins included bass from 21-38 lbs. taken on bunker. Blues blitzed the Byram River itself. Bass are taking bunker at Manursing Island.

GREENWICH

Bluefish can be found all the way into the river. Bunker, spoons and tubes are all taking choppers in the teens.

STAMFORD

Another 50 pounder fell for bunker this past week. Blues are off Collanders under a bunker school, and they are 12 lbs. average. Porgies and blacks are still good at the Cows.

ROWAYTON

Plenty of blues can be found in the Darien/Norwalk area. Bass can be taken on bunker in the usual spots. Porgies are plentiful.

NORWALK

Blues are hitting bunker early in the mornings and in the evenings. They are in solid around Green's Ledge Light. There is good trolling for mixed catches of bass and blues at 11B. Porgies and fluke can be found at 24-A. There are loads of blues under bunker between Sheffield and Fish Island.

WESTPORT

Good bluefishing continues. They are throughout the Norwalk Islands. Try bunker chunks. School bass and harbor blues are at Compo in the early mornings.

Rich Caster of the New York Jets is on the receiving end of Shakespeare equipment.

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BRIDGEPORT

Spotty bass and bluesfishing is taking place at St. Mary's. Bunker dunking pays off at Fayerweather.

STRATFORD

There is spotty weakfishing off Milford. Snappers are in the river. Fluke are at the Gun Club and east of the Breakwater.

NEW JERSEY Fishing Report

SANDY HOOK

The **Chum Box North** reported concentrations of weakfish at Flynn's Knoll. Use a weighted spoon with a strip of squid. The Acid Waters are loaded with big choppers. Stripers are being trolled along the beach with rubber eels like the Lupo Action Eel. Drifting sandworms is also good.

SEA BRIGHT

Giglio's reports good action for bass and blues all along the beach, and there are plenty of fluke, too. Popping plugs and sandworms are the best for bass, while cut bait and metal are good for the blues.

LONG BRANCH

Steven's Tackle reported good fishing along the jetties. "We are catching weakfish, bluefish, fluke and bass at Deal and Elberon." Fluke are being caught on live killies. Bass are taking surface plugs. Weakfish are hitting on the Hopkins, while small blues are hitting the Hopkins and the Snatcher.

Fluking Good~

(Continued from page 11.)

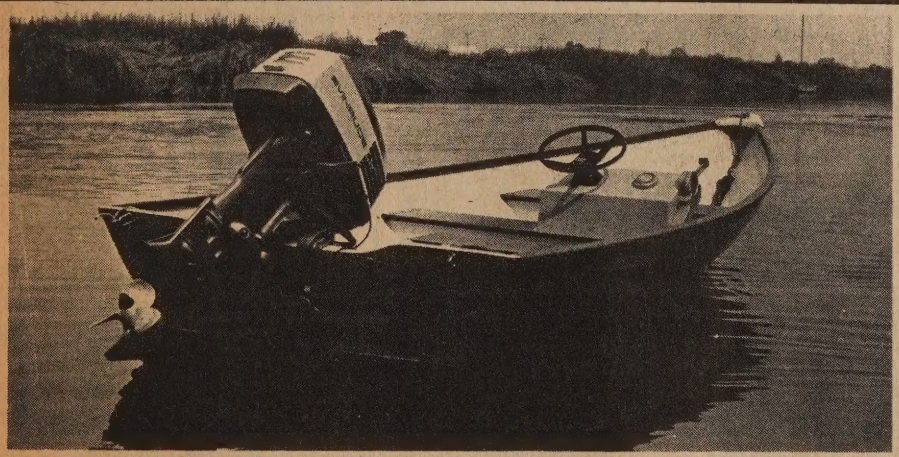
It is true the wind got higher and the seas got rougher, but when the time to head in came we had been reduced to begging bait from other boats. The mackerel schools had left on the outgoing tide and we had used up every last piece of dead mackerel and scraps we could gleam from the mouths of the fish.Fishing the light lines had meant losing a few fish, but I think that without them we would have had far fewer pickups. The net result was pretty good, though.

This article is not the criteria for all types of fluke fishing. Nor is it to be assumed that what works for me in the area specified will work in all other areas as well. I believe that when fishing other areas, the same principle involved in fishing New York Bight from the small boat I use would be just as practical and productive.

I haven't mentioned fishing the party packets for the doormat fluke caught off the Jersey shores. Heavy sinkers, larger hooks, and bigger baits with heavier tackle is the necessary equipment there. Many lost rigs is the normal situation, so take plenty of tackle and, if possible, some nice, fresh, special bait like tinker mackerel or small butterfish about six inches long—if you can find them. Even larger sand eels are great. Most boats will have frozen smelts or large spearing and squid, but sometimes it pays to carry some of your special bait in a little ice chest. I once won a nice pool on one of the party boats by catching an eight-inch bergal and then placing him on the hook alive. The fluke I caught weighed 12½ pounds.

Now that everybody knows what great fluke fishing can be, don't ask me to go fishing with you. I'm sure that after reading this article you will outfish me.

Yours for good health and good fishing.



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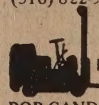

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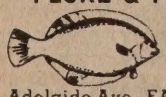

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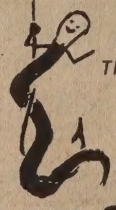

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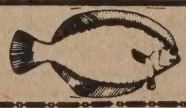

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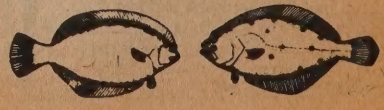

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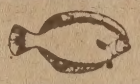

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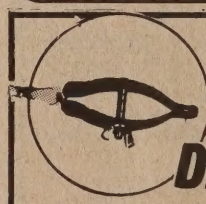

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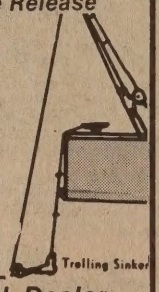

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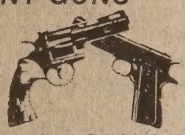

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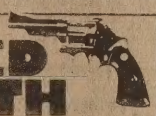

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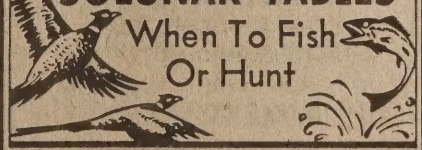

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The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

Thurs.	3:50	**10:25**	4:20	**11:00**
Fri.	4:35	**11:05**	5:15	**11:30**
Sat.	5:15	**11:45**	5:45	-
Sun.	5:55	**12:05**	6:20	**12:30**
Mon.	6:40	**12:55**	7:10	**1:20**
Tues.	7:35	**1:40**	7:50	**2:05**
Weds.	8:20	**2:25**	8:35	**2:50**
Thurs.	9:05	**3:15**	9:25	**3:35**

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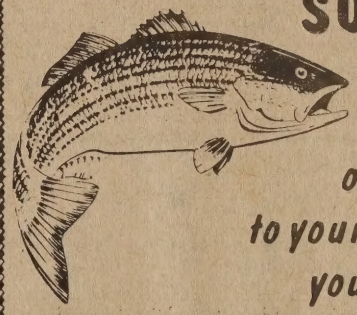

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TIDE TABLES

	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
8/1 THURSDAY	7:27	7:42	9:09	9:17	11:39	11:48	10:59	11:11
8/2 FRIDAY	8:06	8:20	9:45	9:53	-	12:15	11:40	11:51
8/3 SATURDAY	8:43	8:58	10:21	10:28	12:20	12:44	-	12:17
8/4 SUNDAY	9:21	9:33	10:57	11:04	12:39	12:59	12:30	12:54
8/5 MONDAY	9:56	10:08	11:33	11:42	12:54	1:14	1:06	1:29
8/6 TUESDAY	10:31	10:44	-	12:10	1:25	1:45	1:44	2:07
8/7 WEDNESDAY	11:08	11:19	12:18	12:47	1:59	2:21	2:21	2:45
8/8 THURSDAY	11:45	11:58	1:00	1:29	2:40	3:03	3:02	3:25

on SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
(Inlet,Breakwater & Dem. Pt.)	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Parkway Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	+0 00
Beach Channel (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

on NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land (Napeague)	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

on WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

PHASES OF THE MOON

8-17	8-24	8-3	8-11
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

on BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

HOW TO USE TIDE TABLES

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet —0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". — 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

TO

030272-
E.W. HOCKER
53 LOCUST AVE.
ISLIP, N.Y. 11751